

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 13

Introduced by Assembly Members Lieber and Bass

August 21, 2006

An act to add Sections 5053 and 6032 to the Penal Code, relating to corrections, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 13, as introduced, Lieber. Parole reform.

Existing law authorizes the Board of Parole Hearings to parole a prisoner.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to appoint a working group to develop an action plan for reforming the parole system. The bill would require the working group to submit its plan to the Legislature and the secretary 90 days from the date the bill becomes operative. The bill would also authorize the Corrections Standard Authority to award a grant of not more than \$75,000 to a county for the purpose of developing a multi-agency local action plan relating to parolees. The bill would appropriate \$4,350,000 from the General Fund to the authority for this purpose. The bill would require that a local multi-agency council with specified membership develop the plan and submit it to the board of supervisors of the county. The bill would require the board of supervisors to report to the authority prior to June 30, 2007, on the components of the plan it has selected for implementation.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the
2 following:

3 (1) California's parole system is in crisis and immediate
4 reform is necessary. Numerous independent studies have
5 identified flaws in California's parole system and have concluded
6 that these flaws contribute to the failure of inmates to
7 successfully reenter the community, result in a high rate of
8 parolees returning to state prison, and contribute to the conditions
9 of overcrowding in our state prisons.

10 (2) There currently exists a body of research and
11 recommendations for reform sufficient to allow the Department
12 of Corrections and Rehabilitation to determine what action is
13 necessary to correct the problems in California's parole system.

14 (b) The Legislature intends all of the following:

15 (1) To establish a true system of reentry in California that will
16 ensure that inmates make a successful transition from prison to
17 the community. It is the further intent of the Legislature that the
18 working group created by this act adopt a detailed plan of action
19 for implementing the necessary requisite reforms to accomplish
20 that goal.

21 (2) To support the systematic and cultural transformation of
22 the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation into
23 a rehabilitative model that improves offender outcomes and
24 reduces recidivism. As a key component of meeting these goals,
25 it is the further intent of the Legislature to support the
26 development of local infrastructure that provides comprehensive
27 transition and reentry services for parolees. These services shall
28 be complementary to, and consistent with, the long-term
29 objective of providing a continuum of state and local responses
30 to recidivism that enhance public safety and improve offender
31 outcomes.

32 SEC. 2. Section 5053 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

33 5053. (a) The secretary shall appoint a five member working
34 group composed of national experts in the field of planning and
35 administration of corrections and parole. One member, but not
36 more than one member, shall be an employee of the department.
37 The secretary shall consider applicants on a nationwide basis.

1 (b) The working group shall develop a detailed action plan,
2 similar in scope to the department's safety and welfare remedial
3 plan for the juvenile corrections system, that shall set forth the
4 necessary reforms and the steps required by the department to
5 implement those reforms, including any necessary statutory or
6 regulatory changes.

7 (c) The working group's plan shall address, but not be limited
8 to, the following issues:

9 (1) Focusing parole resources on the highest risk offenders.

10 (2) Establishing incentives for successful rehabilitation and
11 compliance with parole.

12 (3) Developing better coordination between state and local
13 agencies in the provision of rehabilitative services to parolees.

14 (4) The appropriate system of sanctions for parole violations,
15 including the role of the judiciary in monitoring and sanctioning
16 parole compliance.

17 (d) The working group shall complete the action plan required
18 by this section and submit it to the Legislature and the secretary
19 90 days from the date this act becomes operative.

20 SEC. 3. Section 6032 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

21 6032. (a) The Corrections Standard Authority may award a
22 grant in the amount of not more than seventy-five thousand
23 dollars (\$75,000) to a county that submits a grant request to it.

24 (b) The county receiving a grant under this section shall use it
25 to develop a multi-agency local action plan including, but not
26 limited to, the following components:

27 (1) A comprehensive response to parolees and recidivism,
28 including collaborative ways to identify and address local gaps in
29 the continuum of care for parolees.

30 (2) A collaborative and integrated approach for implementing
31 a system to reduce crime, increase successful completion of
32 parole, and improve outcomes for parolees.

33 (3) Evaluation, design, and outcome measures, including, but
34 not limited to, the following issues:

35 (A) Annual recidivism rates, including technical parole
36 violations and new offenses.

37 (B) The number and percent of participants successfully
38 completing parole.

39 (C) The number and percent of participants engaged in
40 part-time or full-time employment, enrolled in higher education

1 or vocational training, receiving drug and substance abuse
2 treatment, or receiving mental health treatment.

3 (D) The number and percent of participants that obtain stable
4 housing, including the type of housing.

5 (c) Each action plan shall be developed by a local
6 multi-agency council. The council shall, at a minimum, include
7 the chief probation officer as its chair and one representative
8 each from the district attorney's office, the public defender's
9 office, the sheriff's department, the board of supervisors, the
10 department of social services, the department of mental health, a
11 community-based drug and alcohol program, a city police
12 department, the county office of education or a school district,
13 and an at-large community representative. In order to carry out
14 its duties pursuant to this section, the council shall also include
15 representatives from nonprofit community-based organizations
16 providing services to parolees and experts in the field of criminal
17 justice programs.

18 (d) The local multi-agency council shall submit its action plan
19 to the board of supervisors for its county. The board of
20 supervisors shall review the action plan and determine the
21 components of the action plan to implement. The board of
22 supervisors shall report to the Corrections Standard Authority
23 prior to June 30, 2007, on the components of the action plan it
24 selected for implementation.

25 SEC. 4. The sum of four million three hundred and fifty
26 thousand dollars (\$4,350,000) shall be appropriated from the
27 General Fund to the Corrections Standard Authority to
28 implement the grant program created in Section 6032 of the
29 Penal Code.

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